

An Innovative Program to Expand Patient Centered Medical Homes

Building on the success of a new model for treating people with chronic health problems at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine's Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is launching a similar arrangement with eight of Palmetto Health's physician practices.

The patient-centered medical home (PCMH) is not a physical home or facility, but a team approach to care. One provider takes responsibility for coordinating all the services a patient needs. Those include checkups, tests, support, referrals to other providers, and follow-up for urgent care or emergency services.

The goal is to make sure all of the patients' problems are addressed and nothing falls through the cracks. The practice receives financial rewards from the insurer if improved health outcomes are documented. BlueCross also may help with costs for the extra coordination and resources. BlueCross is the only insurance company starting patient-centered medical homes in the state.

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Lowcountry AHEC student accepted to National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program

Emily Warren, LMSW and Kim Stephens, MEd

Lowcountry AHEC medical student Anesha A. Maxwell has been accepted by the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Students to Service (S2S) Loan Repayment Program. She is one of 77 members of the inaugural S2S class. Anesha is from the small rural town of Springfield, SC (near Orangeburg). She is pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology and will be completing her residency at the University of Florida-Jacksonville.

Over the last few years, Anesha has participated in several Lowcountry AHEC rotations. She participated in the South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT) between her first and second year of medical school. During SCRIPT, she experienced a rural pediatric rotation at Barnwell Pediatrics. During her 3rd year Family Medicine Rural Clerkship rotation at Singleton Health Care Center in Orangeburg, she participated in Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH). Because of her participation in SEARCH,

Anesha attended the 2011 South Carolina Primary Health Care Association Clinical Network Retreat in Myrtle Beach to be a part of the SEARCH Student Forum. She enjoyed the experience at Singleton Health Center so much that she returned during her 4th year for an elective.

Anesha has expressed gratitude for her experience with AHEC. She proudly states, "AHEC has provided me with invaluable exposure to rural medicine. My rotations in rural practices arranged by AHEC were integral in confirming my desire to ultimately practice obstetrics and gynecology in a rural setting. I would encourage any student with the slightest idea of practicing rural medicine to take advantage of the various options that AHEC provides."

Her experience with AHEC was instrumental in her decision to apply for the S2S loan repayment program. Congratulations Anesha!



AnMed Health Join in Distance Learning Initiative

A collaboration between Upstate AHEC in Greenville and AnMed Health in Anderson will result in enhanced distance learning opportunities for healthcare professionals throughout South Carolina and the country.



AnMed's Department of Training and Organizational Development is producing a series of courses with wide appeal to a variety of healthcare professionals. Courses are available on AHEC U, Upstate AHEC's web-based distance learning program that provides professional development opportunities for licensure and recertification in several healthcare disciplines. Fay Brown, Center Director of Upstate AHEC, and Tammy Gillespie, Director of Training and Organizational Development for AnMed, have formed a continuing education partnership between their agencies that will expand web-based offerings for healthcare professionals. Currently, new course offerings are being added monthly.

"This is a perfect example of the type of partnership that provides a positive outcome for everyone

involved. AnMed has excellent resources to develop the highest quality on-line presentations, while AHEC's constituents statewide have an increased need for inexpensive continuing education opportunities accessible on their time frame and in their own locations," according to Fay Brown.

Among the topics the 16 courses will cover are management and leadership, how to develop a team, communications skills, dealing with a generational workforce, selecting a qualified staff, legal and ethical issues in employment, emotional intelligence, health literacy, maneuvering through change and transition, time management and clinical training SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, and Recommendation).

For more information on these courses or more than 50 others available on AHEC U, go to www.ahecu.org, call Debbie Harley, RN, MSN, at Upstate AHEC, 864-349-1160, or email ddharley@upstateahec.org.

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The new PCMH builds on the success of a year-old collaboration between BlueCross and the Palmetto Health Family Medicine Center/USC School of Medicine Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. A recent year-end evaluation by the FMC and BlueCross found that the 150 eligible patients, who had diabetes or congestive heart failure and were enrolled for twelve months, improved in all 10 of the key measures established as goals. For example, they lowered their blood pressure and cholesterol levels, better controlled their glucose levels, worked to lose weight, and got annual eye exams at a higher rate. Results also showed a reduction in hospital admissions and emergency room visits when compared to the previous year.

"In caring for patients with chronic disease, a coordinated team approach is vital," said Libby Baxley, MD, Chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the USC School of Medicine. The department's faculty and residents provide care in this Palmetto Health practice. "This more comprehensive approach requires additional effort by all members of the practice team, dedication and persistence of a nurse care manager, intensive medication management collaboration with our Pharm D, patient support provided by certified diabetes educators, and attention to using clinical data and quality metrics to propel improvement. We would not have been able to implement the first PCMH model here in Columbia without the support of BlueCross. In partnership with them, we showed that it can work. While the results show substantial cost savings, the real winners in this approach are the patients."

BlueCross also has patient-centered medical homes with physician practices in other parts of the state and is working to establish more.

South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium

Executive Director
David R. Garr, MD

South Carolina AHEConnects Editors
Ragan DuBose-Morris, MA
Jessica Huggins, BS

Students Tour South Carolina Colleges

The Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program sponsored College Tours to the College of Charleston and South Carolina State University on Friday, October 21, 2011. A total of 40 students, 36 Mid-Carolina AHEC students and 4 Pee Dee AHEC students, attended the college tour. The students met with an admissions counselor and health professions advisor at the College of Charleston. They then went on a healthcare specific tour of the campus and learned there is not a formal "pre-med" major. They should major in something they are interested in to broaden their educational background, and be familiar with math and science prerequisites associated with a health career curriculum. The students learned about the allied health majors, including but not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and physician assistants. The students also toured the world-renowned library that is 140,000 square feet, roughly the size of three football fields.

After touring the College of Charleston, the college tour then went on to South Carolina State University, "Home of the Bulldogs". South Carolina State is an HBCU (historically black college or university). There, AHEC students toured the sunny campus, being led by South Carolina State honor students. The AHEC students enjoyed learning what life is like on an HBCU campus and the various health science majors offered, including nursing.

Both of the college tours were enlightening to all students involved. They received hands-on experiences and gained an understanding of what college life is like, as well as acquiring a better idea of the road map to get to college. The seniors on the tour were given an application fee waiver for the College of Charleston. Erica Davis, Mid-Carolina AHEC Coordinator, and Tavy Smalls, Pee Dee AHEC Coordinator, also received the college code to give to other seniors planning on applying to the College of Charleston.



Top Left: Tayler Johnson, Tiffany Kind, Jamal Hamilton, Jasmine Cole, Nyaja Gooden, Hannah Barker, Janna Hines, Erica Davis Bottom Left: Nia Ezell, Khari McCloud, Tyler Johnson, Maya Dilligard, Gabrielle Smith



Top Left: Madison Bossart, Kyara Livingston, Taylor Copeland, Lauren Gillian, Maggie Christy, Dijonnaise Suttles, Jasmine April, Ashli Cullum Bottom Left: Jasmine Wood, Vanessa Harris, Hyatt Nelson, Tytiana Georges



Top Left: PD, Justin Price, Nathaniel Ezell, Willard Cunningham, Josh Cook, Ashley Perrin, Kristin Burgess, Garrett Wilson Bottom Left: Diandra Fulmore, Wanay Williams, Andrea Johnson, Jasmine Johnson, Justice April, Kenya Thomas

March Gladness 2012 Annual Meeting

The 2012 South Carolina AHEC Annual Meeting celebrated the teamwork that goes into making South Carolina AHEC so successful. Although members of the AHEC system are scattered around the state, everyone works together in a collaborative effort to make sure that students are being trained to become healthcare professionals, professionals are being supported, and that citizens of the state are receiving quality care. Teamwork is a huge part of South Carolina AHEC, and the Annual Meeting's theme of March Gladness couldn't be any more fitting.

Highlights from this year's meeting included a special presentation from motivational speaker Greg Blake, several team building exercises, and the annual award recognitions. The entire system left the meeting with a renewed sense of unity and drive. Annual award highlights included:



Preceptors of the Year



Samuel Rodgers Stone, MD

Dr. Sam Stone, a family physician at Lowrys Family Medicine in Chester, SC, has been a preceptor for Mid-Carolina AHEC since 1998. He precepts 3rd and 4th year medical students, physician assistant students, nurse practitioner students, pharmacy students, and registered nurse students. As a preceptor, Dr. Stone offers students encouragement and provides them opportunities to hone their skills and to leave his practice with confidence in the choice they made to become healthcare providers. He is involved in the community and works to instill this mindset in his students. Dr. Stone is a small town boy who came home to Chester to make a difference in his community and others like it through South Carolina AHEC. Congratulations Dr. Stone!



Gerald E. Harmon, MD

Dr. Gerald Harmon is a native of South Carolina, and a "tried and true Gamecock." He attended the University of South Carolina for his undergraduate degree and the Medical University of South Carolina for his medical degree, Internship and Residency in Family Practice. He served in the United States Air Force from 1977-1980 and is a brigadier general with the South Carolina Air National Guard, where he also serves as an ANG assistant, air command surgeon. Dr. Harmon is an active preceptor at Waccaamaw Medical Center in the Pee Dee region. He is constantly receiving high evaluations as a "wonderful preceptor." He is committed to the AHEC mission and works to provide excellence through education. He is truly a dedicated physician who is willing to sacrifice his time to share the rewards of medicine with his students. Congratulations Dr. Harmon!

South Carolina AHEC Special Recognition Award



Senator Thomas C. Alexander

Senator Thomas C. Alexander, a resident of Walhalla, SC, served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1987-1994 and has served in the South Carolina Senate from 1994 until the present. He is chairman of the Senate General Committee, and is a past board member for the Upstate AHEC.

Senator Alexander was honored for his support for AHEC programs. The award was presented by Dr. David Garr, South Carolina AHEC Executive Director, and Dr. Ed Evans, Founding Director of the Seneca Lakes Family Medicine Residency Training Program. Congratulations Senator Alexander!

Outstanding Educator of the Year



Donna McCauley

Ms. Donna McCauley is a certified Critical Care Registered Nurse with over 25-years of critical care experience including medical intensive care units, surgical intensive care units, and cardiovascular intensive care units. Ms. McCauley has been an adjunct clinical faculty at Clemson University, School of Nursing for over nine years teaching students in critical care during their senior year. She has been described by her students as teacher with a "passion for healthcare and education and someone who was born to teach. She encourages life-long learning of healthcare professionals." Ms. McCauley's nomination was based on her ability to exhibit and generate excitement for her topic and her passion for teaching others complex clinical topics and skills. Congratulations Ms. McCauley!

For more information about Ms. McCauley see page 6.

Representative Kristopher "Kris" Crawford, a resident of Florence, SC, has served in the South Carolina House of Representatives since 2007. He is a member of the Labor, Commerce, and Industry



Representative Kristopher Crawford

Committee and the Rules Committee. He is a graduate of the Citadel, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the McLeod Health Family Medicine Residency Training Program. Representative Crawford was honored for his support for AHEC programs. The award was presented by Dr. David Garr, South Carolina AHEC Executive Director, and Dr. Bill Hester, Founding Director of the McLeod Health Family Medicine Residency Training Program. Congratulations Representative Crawford!

Clinical Teaching Site of the Year



Cannon Memorial Hospital

Cannon Memorial Hospital is a 55 bed rural hospital serving Pickens County. Cannon offers a full range of services including a 24-hour emergency department, surgical services, wellness programs, full laboratory services, physical and occupational therapy, wellness center and multi-discipline medical practices. Hospital staff have served as preceptors since the 2009-2010 Clinical Year. Cannon Memorial Hospital provides preceptors for a many disciplines including Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, and PA. Cannon serves as an example of rural medical care, interprofessional teamwork, and community commitment. *Continued on Page 6...*

Years of Service



5 Years

Debbie Anderson, Jeff Cauthen
and Imogene Grubbs



10 Years

LaTavish Smalls
and Shawn Anderson



15 Years

Pam Harper



20 Years

Denise White

South Carolina AHEC Ambassador



Jackie Brown

Ms. Jackie Brown is the 2012 recipient of the South Carolina AHEC Michael Porter Ambassador Award. Jackie has served Pee Dee AHEC for 34 years, and her role as an Education Secretary has greatly enhanced the organization. Over the years she has contributed so much to Pee Dee AHEC, and will continue to do so. Congratulations Jackie!



Upstate Nurse Supervisor Receives AHEC Outstanding Educator Award

Donna McCauley of Greenville, a master's level nurse supervisor specializing in critical care, has been recognized for her work as an outstanding educator and trainer. Ms. McCauley has been named the Outstanding Educator for 2012 by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium and the four regional state AHECs. Upstate AHEC, which serves eleven counties in the Upstate region, nominated her for this statewide award. She was honored at a statewide luncheon March 28 in Columbia.

Ms. McCauley, CCRN, MSN, RN, a continuing education trainer for Upstate Area Health Education Center, has been employed at Saint Francis Health System in Greenville for 12 years as a nurse supervisor in the critical care division. She is an adjunct faculty member at Clemson University and the University of South Carolina Upstate.

The recipient has been described by her students as teacher with a "passion for healthcare and education and someone who was born to teach. She encourages life-long learning of healthcare professionals." Her specialty areas of teaching include evidence-based practice and treatment options for critical care patients.

The Outstanding Educator Award is given annually to an exceptional health care educator based on her ability to present information enthusiastically to health care professionals in a practical, useful format. Awardees must successfully tailor technical presentations to address multiple learning styles. McCauley's nomination was based on her ability to exhibit and generate excitement for her topic and her passion for teaching others complex clinical topics and skills.

Ms. McCauley holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Tennessee and a master's in nursing from California State University, Long Beach.

Continuing Education ...Beyond State Borders!

Kay Lambert, Pee Dee AHEC Continuing Education Coordinator

Continuing Education has historically been focused within our South Carolina border serving those regions within our state. With the advent of the SCHOOLS statewide videoconferencing system, continuing education coordinators across the state have been approached for training from alternative resources. This technology has allowed us to stretch our comfort zone and collaborate with individuals in Asheville, North Carolina; Scarborough, Maine; and DeSoto, Texas.

The first request for videoconferencing was with Mountain AHEC in Asheville, North Carolina and originated when local hospital employee assistance personnel needed to participate in a program series entitled "Bridging the Gap: Moving Addiction Science into Service." Easier said than done. Mountain AHEC was in the process of physically moving their entire office and updating their videoconference equipment. Would the videoconference equipment be compatible? After equipment testing and much coordination, the Mountain AHEC series was successfully offered to practitioners in our Pee Dee region. A team effort was the key to this success!

Another request came from the Sports Medicine Department at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, SC. Due to the recent death of a young local athlete with sickle cell anemia, this department requested training from an expert, Scott Galloway. Mr. Galloway is the Head Athletic Trainer with the DeSoto Independent School District in DeSoto, Texas. With the use of videoconference equipment, the athletic trainers experienced live training with the opportunity to ask questions with ease, without the additional time and expense of travel. Mr. Galloway's expertise with young athletes with sickle cell anemia provided a rich knowledge base that helps to ensure a new level of safety for athletes in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina. When a new level of medical safety is achieved, this is a profound success.

The third request came from the Rehabilitation Department at McLeod Regional Medical Center who needed training about the legalities involving patients who have been injured when they return to the workplace. An out-of-state expert, Gwen Simons, Esquire, was identified to present the training. Ms. Simons agreed to provide a series of webinars from her home in Scarborough, Maine. Once again, webinars had been coordinated with Pee Dee AHEC, but we had not produced a webinar. The technology challenges seemed to loom! Can these webinars really be provided? Would this work? With technical support and coordination, Pee Dee AHEC provided quality classes to occupational personnel and rehabilitation staff. Participants were able to interact through live discussions and view the speaker and participants in real time. They were also able to obtain invaluable legal training from a national expert without leaving the hospital campus and incurring the costs of travel for both participants and speakers.

In facing new technology conference challenges, Pee Dee AHEC learned that transcending the first aspects may prove to be challenging, but the subsequent offerings with the new technology are easier to provide. We look forward to expanding our new technology applications....beyond our state borders!

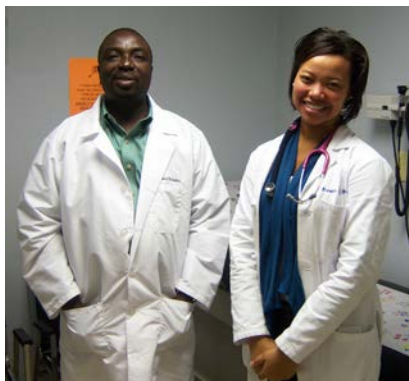
New programs are being offered on the SCHOOLS network of videoconferencing systems across the state. Looking for innovative programs in your backyard? Then visit www.scahec.net/schools, or your regional AHEC's website, and register today!



AHEC Rotations Helps Recruit New Providers to Rural Communities

Mid-Carolina AHEC is pleased to announce the addition of three physician assistants in our rural areas. Mid-Carolina AHEC, Lowcountry AHEC, Pee Dee AHEC and Upstate AHEC, all provide rural clinical experiences for second year physician assistant students from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Our Health Professions Student Coordinators, Julie Ghent and Jeff Cauthen, work with the MUSC Physician Assistant Program to provide clinical rotation experiences in rural, underserved areas in our 11-county region. Physician assistant students entering their clinical training also took part in a three-week Rural Interprofessional Student Experience (RISE).

Kristin Bost, PA-C, is employed with Mante Pediatrics in Lancaster. While performing a pediatric rotation in Lancaster, Kristin met Dr. Ebenezer Mante and realized that she really loved working with children and their parents. Dr. Mante was looking to add to his staff of providers and upon her graduation, he offered Kristin a position. She has been with Mante Pediatrics since late October 2011.



Kristin, originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, stated, "I really enjoyed working in a small rural community. I think I can make a difference in the lives of my patients and their families. I am also excited to work with someone as caring, compassionate and professional as Dr. Mante."

Kelly Gleffe, PA-C, grew up in Summerville, SC. After spending her RISE rotation in Chester and traveling to some of our rural sites, Kelly said her desire to work in a small town was reaffirmed. Kelly is currently employed at Carolina Heart Specialists. Kelly says she is very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with and learn from the outstanding physicians at the practice including Dr. Deepak Shah, Dr. Vipul Shah and Dr. Mark Ciminelli.

About her rural rotations, Kelly states; "While in my clinical year at MUSC, the rotations that I enjoyed the most were those in "small town" settings. Growing up in Summerville helped foster my



appreciation for the personal, community oriented atmosphere that inevitably comes with rural places like Lancaster, SC AHEC had a significant

role in helping me further realize my desire to work in this type of environment by allowing me to participate in a Health Fair in Walterboro, SC as well as a three-week rotation in Chester, SC. This was when I first learned about Springs Memorial Hospital and the services offered in the community. I contacted Julie Ghent, HPS Coordinator at Mid-Carolina AHEC and she directed me to Carolina Heart Specialists. I was fortunate to be brought onto the team in October of 2011."

Drewid Plyler, PA-C, is a Lancaster native. It was during an independent work-study assignment that she first met Dr. Sam Stone. Drewid spent one week shadowing Dr. Stone in Chester and at the end of the week she knew she had found her calling. She says she fell in love with family medicine then. Drewid then applied to and was accepted into MUSC's physician assistant program. She entered



the program wanting to practice family medicine in a rural setting, and she spent much of her clinical year in rural rotations around

the state. Upon graduation from the program, she returned to Dr. Stone's office, Lowrys Family Medicine, and is working alongside him to provide quality, compassionate care to the citizens of Chester.

Drewid states, "Dr. Stone instilled in me the importance of patient care – care of a person. The

patient is not a number, not a chart or a mysterious diagnosis waiting to be solved. The patient is a person just like you and me. I am honored every time a patient selects me to provide care for them or their families. I can make a difference in rural Chester, SC. Thank you to AHEC for making these (rural) rotations available for students."

Mid-Carolina AHEC feels very fortunate to have these young ladies employed in our rural counties. When we have this kind of success in recruiting health care providers to our rural areas, it makes the issues associated with setting up, scheduling, housing, and hospital compliance with rotations all worthwhile.

Health Careers Academy Students Attend the 12th Annual Ernest E. Just Scientific Symposium

Natasha Chatman, Lowcountry AHEC and LaToya Dodson, Upstate AHEC



On February 24, 2012, 18 Health Careers Academy students from Upstate and Mid-Carolina AHECs attended the 12th Annual Ernest E. Just Scientific Symposium held at the Medical University of South Carolina. The symposium celebrates the life and scientific achievements of Dr. Ernest E. Just, a prominent African-American Marine Biologist and a native of Charleston, SC. At an early age, Dr. Just demonstrated a gift for academic excellence. He was thirteen years of age when he enrolled as a student in the first class of The Colored Normal Industrial Agricultural and Mechanics College (known today as South Carolina State University) in Orangeburg, SC. It took only three years to complete his

course of study, after which he received a degree of "Licentiate of Instruction" which is a professional degree for teachers. Dr. Just graduated magna cum laude from the University of Chicago in 1916, receiving his doctorate in experimental embryology.

The Ernest E. Just Scientific Symposium is held every year during Black History month to honor his commitment to education and scientific accomplishments. His legacy leaves a lasting impact in the area of scientific research. Participants in the morning session heard talks from invited speakers who introduced the life of Dr. Just and discussed career development. Sessions included presentations on "The Biology of Just the Cell Surface- Then and Now," "Career Path and Research in Stem Cell Tissue Engineering," and "Implementation Science in Surgery." During the afternoon sessions, students participated in a campus tour and breakout sessions with representatives from their MUSC college of interest including the College of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine, College of Dental Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and College of Health Professions.

Health Careers Academy students enjoyed the opportunity to attend this event. The symposium was great exposure to the field of research and its connection to healthcare.

Learn Basic Skills to Save a Life

Linda Salsberry, Walterboro Press and Standard



*Photo by Linda Salsberry
Asbury Burgess practices mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and watches to see if the mannequin breathes during a CPR/AED training offering at Lowcountry AHEC.*

In the moments there may be between life and death, training could save the life of a member of your family, your church, a co-worker, or a complete stranger. Lowcountry Area Health Education Center, Eat Smart Move More Colleton County, and Richard Harvey, National Basic Life Support Instructor for the American Heart Association (yes and County Coroner), are collaborating to train people to administer basic Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The first class, conducted on Valentine's Day, had about 20 people registered. They were all on their hands and knees next to the training mannequins to learn the hard physical labor of proper CPR.

"My goal is to get near Seattle," Harvey said, "where if you walk the city street, one of every three people you pass knows how to administer CPR." CPR has recently changed, he explained, and instead of emphasizing airway and breathing first followed by compressions, training now puts compressions first, followed by airway and breathing. "If you only do compressions, you can save a life," Harvey said. According to studies, he said, only 9 percent of lay people indicate they would do CPR on a stranger. The main reason they would not is they do not want to do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Before utilizing the American Heart Association training video

that explains and then continues instruction as a class practices, Harvey said the first thing one does is "Make sure the scene is safe."

Another of Harvey's goals is to have an Automatic External Defibrillator in every church in Colleton County. Heart attacks are most likely to occur at an older age and church is where that age group is likely to be. The device is being seen more and more in public settings, he explained. Disney World, for example, has an AED positioned within 200 yards of every point in the park. An AED, if used within five minutes of a person falling, provides a 90 percent chance of that person recovering. The organizations involved are working on a grant to purchase AEDs, which cost about \$1,200 each. That dollar amount, he suggested, is an easy fundraiser for a church. AEDs and other items, such as pocket face shields that can be used to administer CPR, are available online. Even training is offered online. "Electricity is the key to resuscitation," he said, adding, an AED will change a heartbeat from "quivering to organized."

Harvey stressed that the course is a skills course and, in another change, no written test is required. He did, however, encourage those attending to ask lots of questions. People tried compressions first. "Push hard and fast," Harvey said, 100 per minute. The clicking sound made by the mannequins, he said, means you are pushing down the required two inches. One person asked, "What if I push so hard I break some ribs?" "Resuscitate, keep going," Harvey said. "Ribs heal."



*Photo by Linda Salsberry
Richard Harvey, National Basic Life Support Instructor, helps Katina Brown, with USC Salkehatchie, to properly give breathes to resuscitate her training mannequin.*

Diane Mathews, Director of Lowcountry AHEC, who was taking the course in addition to helping organize it, encouraged people who do purchase an AED for a church or work site to let AHEC know, so it can track the number of AEDs in the county and offer to provide training on its use. Harvey said if a church buys an AED, he would train a group of 10 or more. Another goal is to train people to become instructors, so more people can be certified (which is good for two years) and the goal of one in three people in the county knowing CPR is reached within five years.

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Teen Community Emergency Response Team Members in the Lowcountry

Natasha Chatman, Lowcountry AHEC and LaToya Dodson, Upstate AHEC

Lowcountry AHEC is partnering with the Colleton County Emergency Preparedness Agency to train Health Careers Academy (HCA) members as Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Members. The goal of the CERT training is to educate citizens to prepare and respond to disasters such as hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, etc. Trained HCA members are available to organize volunteers and provide immediate assistance to their family, friends, and neighbors. Students received training in disaster medical operations, search and rescue, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, fire suppression, psychology and team organization. Several components of the CERT training closely align with the HCA curriculum, which makes this partnership an ideal connection within the community. The HCA curriculum includes activities which demonstrate the use of communication, math, and clinical skills specifically designed for future health professional students.

The partnership between Lowcountry AHEC and the Colleton County Emergency Preparedness Agency began last school year. Currently 13 HCA members have completed the CERT training. All Teen CERT members receive a certificate of completion along with a backpack with emergency supplies.

Kayla Bowman, an 11th grade student at Colleton County High School, states, "I am grateful for the opportunity to receive this training. I learned a lot of great information."

HCA members are now equipped and available to serve the citizens of their community in the event of a disaster, and they are one step closer to reaching their goals of becoming HCA scholars within the South Carolina AHEC system.



Interested in Learning More About South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Programs?

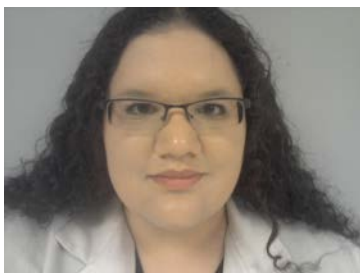
Complete an information request form online at www.scahec.net. Information will be sent to you for any of our programs.

Programs Include: Health Careers Academy, Summer Institute & Summer Health Careers Academy

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Pharmacy Student “Sees the Light” of Primary Care



Doctorate of Pharmacy candidate Allison Serdah was sold on the idea of SCRIPT (the South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training) from the moment Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Professions Student coordinator Jeff Cauthen went to Columbia to pitch the program to pharmacy students in 2009. He remembers her enthusiastic questions following his presentation. It must have worked because Allison, better known as Alli, came to Lancaster for SCRIPT in May of 2010 and has never really left.

During SCRIPT, Chester area family medicine physician Dr. Sam Stone spoke to the participants about life as a rural healthcare provider. Alli approached him afterwards and told him how she wanted to be a physician but didn't have the confidence to know if it was something she could handle. Dr. Stone told her if she survived in his clinic for one week he thought she could survive medical school. She started shadowing and helping out in June 2010, and one week has quickly turned into nearly two years, working there when her schedule permitted.

After graduation from pharmacy school, she plans to work in the Chester Regional Medical Center pharmacy and continue volunteering with Dr. Stone at Lowrys Family Medicine. She plans to enter medical school in the fall of 2014. In her words, “SCRIPT and Dr. Stone both taught me that folks need more than just someone to write a prescription, they need an advocate and a friend to help guide them with their care, and I know I can provide that. There's no other place for me than being in rural family medicine!” And for anybody in the Chester community who wonders what they'll do when—or maybe that's if—the tireless Dr. Stone ever retires, she also says to the patients she helps, “When I grow up, I'm going to be a family doctor just like Dr. Sam.”

AHEC is continually looking for ways to bring students into the “family” of primary care providers, whether through formal programs or informal one-on-one persuasion by their Health Professions Student Coordinators. We like to know that something has struck a chord with somebody, and for anybody who knows Alli we know this is true. We advise that you stay tuned for more from this AHEC believer!

10th Annual South Carolina Nursing Excellence Conference

On March 29th the South Carolina AHEC welcomed 200 attendees to the 10th Annual South Carolina Nursing Excellence Conference at the South Carolina Hospital Association in Columbia. Each year, partnering organizations across the state join South Carolina AHEC to plan and provide an exciting experience for all those on the journey to excellence. This year's conference explored the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) report, “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” which provides recommendations addressing how nurses can take a leadership role in improving the healthcare system and the delivery of care in the United States.

The Center to Champion Nursing in America (CCNA), a joint initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sponsored this year's keynote speaker Mr. David Knowlton, MA, the President and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute and the former Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health. Mr. Knowlton spoke on the IOM's recommendations and the correlation with the forces of magnetism. Next, Dr. Eileene Shake, the Director of the South Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership, provided an update on the South Carolina One Voice One Plan Future of Nursing Action Coalition, which is leading the development of an implementation plan for the IOM's future of nursing recommendations for South Carolina.

The previous first place winners of the 2011 South Carolina Nursing Excellence Conference Poster Session provided presentations related to their research. Throughout the day attendees also had the opportunity to view 24 posters of projects and vote on this year's winners in the following categories: the impact of the IOM

report on the future of nursing as it relates to the state of South Carolina, nursing research, and evidence-based practice.

The afternoon session featured a panel on implementing the IOM's recommendations with a focus on the IOM report's key message related to advancing the educational level of nurses. Attendees also heard from healthcare leaders whose organizations have successfully attained Magnet and Pathway recognition. Presenters from Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital in Charleston discussed the benefits of Magnet designation and the impact on the bedside nurse. Attendees also learned from Karen Carroll, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, the Vice President for Patient Care Services and the Chief Nursing Officer at Beaufort Memorial Hospital, how Beaufort Memorial Hospital achieved the coveted Pathway to Excellence® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

As in years past, the conference planning committee, Sigma Theta Tau, and the South Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders recognized a Nursing Workforce Leader from South Carolina who personifies the best in nursing leadership. This year Karen Carroll, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, was recognized for her contributions to the nursing workforce in South Carolina.



Karen Carroll RN, MSN, NEA-BC, receives an award for her contributions to South Carolina's Nursing Workforce

The following awards were presented to winners of the 2012 South Carolina Nursing Excellence Conference Poster Session:

The Impact of the IOM Report on the Future of Nursing as it Relates to the State of South Carolina

1st place: "Nurses Nurturing Nurses: A Strategy for New Graduate Nurse Development in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit," Cynthia Edwards and Cheryl Holderfield (Medical University of South Carolina)

Nursing Research

1st place: "SILENT Hours on 9 East," Emily Andrews (Medical University of South Carolina)

Evidence-Based Practice

1st place: "Our Journey to Zero: Preventing Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections in the Pediatric ICU," Melinda Biller, Beth Rhoton, Jill Thompson, Joel Cochran, Rose Augustus, Natalie Ball, and Patricia Prause (Medical University of South Carolina)

2nd place: "A Better Discharge Process: Improving Patients' Experience," Karen Boyd and Jessica Johnson (Medical University of South Carolina)

3rd place: "The CUSP Project: Improving Patient Safety through MD-Staff Communication and Collaboration," Laura Gallagher and George Dolny-Korasick (Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital)

Following the awards, the South Carolina Hospital Association sponsored a reception.

CMS Program Prepares Physicians for Pay-for-Performance

Consistent with national health care goals to expand the use of electronic health record (EHR) systems, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging health care providers to begin reporting Physician's Quality Reporting System (PQRS) measures.

The PQRS assistance program, a joint program offered by CMS and The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME), can help health care providers earn a 0.5 percent bonus based on their Medicare Part B allowed charges. Through this program, CCME will provide free assistance to health care providers using a PQRS-certified EHR. This assistance can be beneficial in preparing for future changes. According to 2012 Final Rules, health care providers who are not reporting PQRS measures by 2015, may be subject to a financial penalty based on their Medicare Part B allowed charges.

For additional information and enrollment into this program, please contact CCME Care Improvement Specialist, Angela McCrea, at amccrea@thecarolinascenter.org or 800-682-2650, ext. 7572. For more information about this program, visit www.ccmemedicare.org/PQRS.

This material was prepared by The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for North and South Carolina, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 10SOW-SC-C9-12-33

South Carolina AHEC News

Cydney Carson Joins the South Carolina AHEC Team



Cydney Carson is the new Executive Administrative Assistant to Dr. David R. Garr, Executive Director for South Carolina AHEC. She graduated from Winthrop University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing and The Citadel with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She has held several administrative positions including Office Manager for both Sand Creek, Inc., a general construction business, and East Cooper Psychiatric Solutions, a psychiatry firm.

Cydney can be reached at carsoncn@musc.edu or 843-792-4429.

Save the Dates

2012 SCHOOLS Line-Up

Don't miss out on any of our upcoming SCHOOLS programs, including a series on addiction and our nursing leadership programs.

You can register for any of our 31 sites across the state by visiting our website. The programs are free of charge to all consortium members.

Additional information is available at www.scahec.net/schools

Nicole McCleary Joins the Office of Healthcare Workforce



Nicole McCleary has joined the Office of Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning as a Statistician III. Nicole has an urban planning and social service background and has twelve years of experience in project management and conducting social science research. She has experience working with federal, state and local agencies in various metropolitan cities and has extensive knowledge of policy analysis and review. As a Public Involvement Coordinator, she shared information with a wide variety of audiences.

Nicole can be reached at 843-792-5943 or mcclear@muscd.edu.

Mid-Carolina AHEC's Newest Employee

Rebecca Jackson, RN, joined Mid-Carolina AHEC as a Nursing Continuing Education Coordinator in October. She has eight years experience in the nursing field. Rebecca started her career at Springs Memorial Hospital in Lancaster, SC working on the medical surgical unit. She later transferred to Home Care and Hospice of Lancaster and her most recent position there was Clinical Supervisor for Home Health. Rebecca is a graduate of University of South Carolina – Lancaster Campus with an Associate in Nursing degree. She is currently enrolled in a RN to BSN program at USC, which starts in the Fall of 2012.



Rebecca can be reached at rljackson@comporium.net or 803-286-4121.

Joyce Harriger is Promoted to Mid-Carolina AHEC's CE Coordinator



Joyce Harriger has been promoted to the Continuing Education Coordinator at Mid-Carolina AHEC. Joyce has a Bachelor's degree in psychology and has been supporting the CE efforts for five years. She is excited to be able to use her marketing and coordination skills in this position. Joyce manages and administers many of Mid-Carolina AHEC's large conferences. Her organizational skills and attention to detail will be a fabulous complement to the CE team.

Joyce can be reached at jharriger@comporium.net, or 803-286-4121.



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CALL FOR ARTICLES:

The editorial staff of "South Carolina AHEConnects" welcomes the submission of articles, success stories and upcoming events for the Fall Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to Jessica Huggins at hugginjr@musc.edu The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2012.

South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium
Medical University of South Carolina
19 Hagood Avenue
Suite 802, MSC 814
Charleston, SC 29425-8140
www.scahec.net
843.792.4431